

## MEMORANDUM

To: Interested Parties

From: Richard P. Baker, Shoreland Zoning Coordinator

Re: Public Hearing on Proposed Amendments to Chapter 1000, *State of Maine Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances*

Date: August 11, 2005

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Today, the Board of Environmental Protection voted to post the attached draft amendments to the Department of Environmental Protection's rules, Chapter 1000, the *State of Maine Guidelines for Municipal Shoreland Zoning Ordinances* (Guidelines) to public hearing. The hearing is scheduled for September 8, 2005 at the Holiday Inn/Ground Round adjacent to the Augusta Civic Center. It will begin at 2:30 p.m.

The Mandatory Shoreland Zoning Act (38 M.R.S.A section 438-A) requires the Board of Environmental Protection to adopt, and from time to time update and amend, minimum guidelines for municipal zoning and land use controls that are designed to carry out the legislative purposes of the Act. The last time that the Guidelines were comprehensively reviewed and amended was in 1990.

The attached draft document is the result of the Department's review of the current Guidelines. While many of the changes are minor clarifications, some more significant amendments or additions are included. For example, the document includes the new state-wide timber harvesting standards for shoreland areas, as well as proposed recreational trail standards. Among other amendments, the Department has also proposed to establish a new General Development District with a 75 foot setback requirement. This new district would apply where the area within 75 feet of a water body or wetland is not significantly developed at the time the district is created.

In addition to the oral comments at the September 8<sup>th</sup> hearing, the Board will be accepting written comments until September 19, 2005 at 5:00 p.m. Written comments must be addressed to:

Richard Baker, Shoreland Zoning Coordinator  
Department of Environmental Protection  
State House Station 17  
Augusta, Maine 04333